



## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

### Legislative Update, Week of February 12, 2010

Three of the four Department bills have been introduced, including HB10-1043, Concerning Outdated References to the Federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children bill, sponsored by Representative Apuan and Senator Sandoval, which passed out of the House Health and Human Services Committee on a vote of 11-0. Currently, our statute requires us to use a more restrictive practice of calculating income when determining eligibility for Family Medicaid than the Social Security Act allows for. The Department is seeking to realign the State Plan and the Colorado Revised Statutes to mirror existing operations of the Family Medicaid program, which is to disregard \$90 per month, per person whose earned income is used to determine program eligibility. The bill passed on Second reading in the House.

Also introduced this week was the All Payer Health Claims Database, HB10-1033, sponsored by Representatives Kefalas & Kagan, and Senator Morse. This proposal is aimed at bringing down health care costs and improving the value of the care received by all Coloradans by implementing an all-payer claims database to provide consistent, transparent, and comprehensive data that captures the utilization and cost of health care services for the benefit of all stakeholders. Uses for an APCD include answering a wide variety of research, policy and stakeholder questions about health and health care by: determining utilization patterns and rates; assisting physicians in evaluating their performance relative to peers; and measuring performance relative to established guidelines accepted by key stakeholders. It is scheduled to be heard before the House Health and Human Service Committee on Monday, February 22nd.

SB10-129, Concerning Care Coordination Services for Children with Autism, sponsored by Senator Hudak and Representative Rice has also been introduced. This proposed legislation would allow for more case management options for HCBS Children with Autism Waiver. It expands the current language, which designates Community Centered Boards (CCBs) as the Single Entry Point (SEP), to include CCBs, SEPs, or other department-approved case management agency. It will be heard in Senate Health and Human Service Committee next Wednesday, February 17.

Dr Judy Zerzan, Medical Director for HCPF, provided technical testimony this week on SB10-117, sponsored by Senator Foster and Representative Rice. This bill adds over-the-counter medications identified through the drug utilization review process to services provided under Medicaid when the medications are prescribed by a licensed practitioner or a qualified licensed pharmacist. The bill passed 6:1 and was sent to the Appropriations Committee.

*For additional information please contact Ginny Brown at 303-815-0652 or Nicole Storm at 303 748-5310*